Catskill Sept 23rd 1828 Tuesday morning

My dear Brother

Your long wished for & expected letter reached me at Southington on the 8th of this month the day preceding that on which I left home for this place. Its date was June 19th, & you can easily conceive with what eagerness I read the contents, after having been for so long a time debarred the exquisite pleasure of receiving intelligence from my much loved far off brother. We are all happy in your happiness & rejoice in your joy, & let me again assure you that it is no trifling source of pleasure to your friends on this side of the broad Atlantic that the gloom which has so long overshadowed your path is dispelled & that light has opened upon you in a land of strangers. Perhaps to me this event of your marriage is fraught with deeper interest, the cause of more heartfelt emotion than it occasions our other friends, who have each a centre where their best affections most naturally & with much propriety turn. *I am alone*, as it were & look around upon the circle of my brothers & sisters, but for a small portion of their love, preoccupied as it is by dearer objects; but believe me I am neither discontented or displeased at this, it is but natural, yet I cannot deny but that sometimes the reflection is deeply saddening. — However I have abundant reason to be happy & satisfied so far as temporal things are concerned & have no cause to complain of unkindness, but rather to speak of favors received —

As I said above I left S— on the 9th the day before Commencement & came as far as New Haven. The wind was northeast it rained during the afternoon & evening & there was every indication that the following day would be very stormy, but contrary to our forebodings it was one of the most beautiful that can be imagined. The sun shone brightly through its course, the air was cool & invigorating, the rains of that & the preceding week had revived the face of nature & all things wore that appearance of freshness which characterises the month of June. The city was full of animation & gaiety the exercises of the day were very respectable & the audience as usual very numerous. Isaac Stuart was one of the Orators, his subject "the Man of Genius & the Man of Discipline". The oration was pronounced very good. The Valedictory Address by a Philadelphian had more originality than usual, & the audience were consequently much gratified. — The weather continued fine on Thursday & as I had made my calculations to leave that evening if possible I came off accompanied by Maria Lewis without being certain of the especial protection of any gentlemen. We were however so fortunate as to meet with acquaintances the whole distance & arrived here safely as the sun was setting on Friday evening. The day was remarkably fine & our sail up the river proportionably delightful. — We were a little disappointed in the Boat the one we expected to have taken being laid by on account of damage sustained. Had we been aware of the fact we should have made our arrangements to have taken passage in the North America on Saturday. This boat surpasses all others both in speed & elegance it is called by foreigners a 'floating palace' & performs the trip from New York to Albany in 11 hours. Our passage to Catskill was performed in about the same length of time in the Swiftsure but as we reached here in good season & had good accommodations we have no just reason to complain. Our friends were not at the time expecting me, yet they welcomed us most cordially, & thus far our visit has been most gratifying & pleasant. We find their situation altogether preferable to their former one at the head of the street, it is not only more pleasant but it is more convenient in every respect. There is fine garden & fruit yard attached to the house, from which they have a great abundance of peaches, & grapes besides cherries & plums. — Mr Woodruff's ankle is not entirely healed but it gives him little trouble now. From the account I have received here of the wound, it must have been much more serious than we at a distance apprehended. The other members of the family are as usual. — On Thursday of last week we visited the Mountain. Mr Andrews was to have gone with us, but the evening previous he received intelligence of the death of his sister at Oswego, which prevented his attendance. We were not however to be detered ~~however~~ from the pleasure of our contemplated excursion by the failure of our beau, & therefore joined ~~to~~ a party of which the principal members were Mrs Hawley & her father Rev Mr Noyes of Norfield. This day was likewise very fine & the atmosphere unusually clear. Our party was very social we started at six A.M. & reached the Pine Orchard before ten. We visited the Falls & the South Mountain, had an excellent dinner & returned to C— at 1/2 past 7. — Owing to the late rains there was a greater quantity of water passing over the Falls than I have ever before seen, but we were obliged to view them in such haste that I could not stop to admire & enjoy their beauties. The view from the S. Mountain was more distinct the village & river seemed much nearer than when I have viewed them before. The house is of an enormous size, but not too large to accommodate the throng of visitors during the summer months. It is now considered as shut, that is, a greater part of the servants are dismissed & they do not feel bound to make that preparation for company as before —

Mrs Elliott was one of the party, she enquired after you, & advised me very strongly to join you in Paris this fall to spend the winter & travel with you untill your return. Such an arrangement might in some respects be very pleasant, but it is doubtful whether in all. — You will probably meet there some American ladies this winter, as Mr Henry Edwards a son of the Edwards of Hunter sailed for Havre on the 15th with his wife & sister.

I mentioned at the close of my last letter that a storm had commenced; it proved indeed a breaking up of the drouth & almost a deluge. It continued three days & nights, the last night in particular, (Thursday) the rain fell in torrents, & when we rose in the morning the meadows around us were entirely covered. The damage appears by the papers to have been severe along the Conn river. "The water in the river at Hartford commenced rising on Thursday night & for five hours rose at the rate of 12 inches an hour. It continued to rise but less rapidly untill Sunday noon, when it came to a stand at 22 feet above low water mark." It has not been so high since 1801. The meadows which the week before were covered with the greatest crop ever known, presented the appearance of a vast sea. The damage was also considerable on some of the branches of the Ct.—

The ~~damage done to~~ injury sustained by the Farmington canal is estimated at, between 8 & 9000 dollars —

Frances Lothrop was with us during the storm, & with her vivacity & intelligence we spent the time very pleasantly. She is a fine singer, of course she & Charles made the house resound with the music of their voices.

Monday morning 29th. Within the last hour my bitter feelings have all been roused & animated by the reception of your letters of July 6th & 21st & of Aug 5th enclosed in one from brother C— & Sister M—. The letters I have read, the Journal I have not time to read before the hour for sending this to the office. How gladdening it is to the hearts of long seperated & far distant friends to receive these tokens of cherished affection & love it is like the breaking forth of the sun after a dark & cheerless day. That little letter — I value it not the less for its being small, it is large enough to convey to me kind & brotherly expressions of affectionate remembrance & its ~~neat~~ appearance ~~so~~ delicately sealed & directed to me always calls up a smile of joy. — You are no longer a solitary wanderer on the broad arena of the world, tis my hope & trust (& I presume all our friends would join me,) that you will realise all that your fondest hopes have anticipated, & I am impatiently looking forward to the time when I may personally congratulate my brother on his restored happiness & embrace Theresa as my sister.

We are prepared to find her in many respects differing from us, yet we hope to render ourselves, by a cordial reception of her to our family circle, & by ~~affectio~~ the performance of affectionate offices so agreeable, that she may not regret the country she will have left. — I am quite sorry that you should have been disappointed that I did not write you by the ship of June 15th. The reason that I thought it unnecessary was this, that your joint letter arrived in season for the requisite answer by the ship of June 1st. which I had just despatched. & I supposed that the contents of that letter would be all that you would require. — I wrote again for the vessel of July 1st & enclosed an ~~ans~~answer to Theresa & sent it to New York by Mr Mulford, I presume therefore that you received it soon after the date of your last. — By C—s letter I find that your letter to him of Aug. 5th reached S— two days ~~earlier than~~ previous to those of a much earlier date directed to me.

I expect to find your journal very interesting & to take much pleasure in reading it to our friends here. I obtained little news from home save that Miss Clara whom I left feeble was rather better. Charles says that M— is likewise feeble, but she says she is not, so I conclude she is neither very well nor very ill. I have now been absent three weeks, & if I hear of nothing sufficiently important to call me home shall probably remain here from four to five weeks from this time. When I am at S— I am apt to think that I must stay there, (& indeed the ties which bind me there are strongest enduring,) yet I see not the propriety nor the necessity of confining myself so closely as I have hitherto done since the death of our revered parents. It is however my home, my first & best home & being such it is consequently the place where I wish to spend more of my time than at any other one ~~place~~ spot. — — I saw in this village last week Mrs Prof. Strong; Her health is very delicate & she came on to spend a week at Dr Dwight's hoping it would be of service to her. She spoke of Ham Col. & mentioned that her husband attended commencement, & that there were but nine students. Lathrop was also there & declined accepting the Professorship. The President was determined not to resign so I see not but that the institution is ~~in~~ a miserable condition — Yale Col. appears not to be at all injured by the late rebellion. The students were all heartily glad to get back & the public has all along been on the side of the Faculty. Amos Blanchard is appointed Tutor. — The hour 12 o'clock for closing the mail draws nigh & yet my sheet is not full. I have not time to say more save to wish you & Theresa every blessing which it falls to the lot of mortals enjoy. With sentiments of unabated

a Love for all affection your sister Elizabeth

92c

Octobre 30

Paid 12½

PAYS D'OUTREMER
PAR LE HAVRE

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OCTO
1828

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Mr Edward Robinson

To the care of Messieurs B. Curtis & Porter

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Paris

France

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